

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 03505 041134Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
OMB-01 IO-13 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /071 W
-----041144Z 071635 /10

R 041102Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3356
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 3505

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE
SUBJECT: SYRIA EDITORIAL COMMENTARY ON LEBANON

1. DURING LAST SEVERAL DAYS WE HAVE SEEN NOTICEABLE SHIFT
IN SYRIAN EDITORIAL COMMENTARY ON LEBANON. REFERENCES TO
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IAIRO ACCORDS HAVE ALL BUT DISAPPEARED FROM
MEDIA, REPLACED BY PROMOTION OF A "NATIONAL FRONT" WITH
ASSAM KANSO'S LEBANESE BAATH AND KAMAL SHATILA'S NATIONAL
AND PATRIOTIC FRONT PARTIES AT ITS CORE.
LONG FRONT PAGE ARTICLES APPEARED ON MAY 30
AND JUNE 1 EXPRESSING OPTIMISM ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR FORMING
A BROAD NATIONAL FRONT WHICH WOULD SUPPORT SARKIS. INTER-
SPERSED WITH THESE COMMENTS ARE LIGHTLY VEILED WARNINGS TO
LEBANESE RIGHTISTS AGAINST PARTITIONING OF THE COUNTRY.
AMID AL-KHULI WROTE COLUMN MAY 30 IN WHICH HE ASSERTED THAT
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LEBANON HAD TO IMPLEMENT SECURITY AND REBUILD THE COUNTRY.
HE DECLARED THAT ANYONE OPPOSING THESE GOALS WOULD FIND
HIMSELF ISOLATED AND IN CONFRONTATION WITH ALL OF LEBANON.

2. ON JUNE 1, LONG RAMBLING ARTICLE APPEARED ON MEETING SHATILA
HELD WITH SARKIS AND ON THE DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE "NATIONAL
FRONT" AT ITS MEETING FOLLOWING SHATILA-SARKIS TALKS. OBSERVERS

EXPRESSED THEIR OPTIMISM CONCERNING RESULTS OF DIALOGUE HELD
AMONG VARIOUS PARTIES TO ESTABLISH BROAD NATIONAL FRONT.

3. JUNE 1 EDITORIALS ON LEBANON TOOK SIMILAR TAIK. IHMAD
SHUKRI WROTE COLUMN IN AL-BAATH ENTITLED "THE WIDE NATIONAL
FRONT IS GUARANTEE FOR PEACE AND UNITY." HE CLAIMED
POLITICAL COORDINATION WAS ESSENTIAL AMONG ALL LEBANESE
AND ONLY KILLERS, ARMS MERCHANTS, AND ADVOCATES OF PARTITION WOULD
OPPOSE IT. HE ALSO NOTED THAT SUCH A FRONT WOULD BE COMMITTED
TO LEBANON'S INTEGRITY INCLUDING "ITS ARAB ROLE WITHIN THE
CIRCUMSTANCES OF CONFRONTATION AND STRUGGLE AT ALL
LEVELS.Z SIMILAR COLUMN APPEARED IN THAWRA CALLING FOR
"INCREASED POLITICAL HARMONY" AND WARNING THAT SYRIA HAD
NOT SACRIFICED FOR LEBANON ONLY TO ALLOW COLLAPSE OF THE
PROGRESS MADE TO DATE.

4. COMMENT:

TEMPORARY ABSENCE OF DEILARATIONS ABOUT CAIRO ACCORDS
IN SYRIAN MEDIA FAR FROM CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE THAT SYRIAN
ARDOR FOR REACHING AND IMPLEMENTING FORMULA HAS DISAPPEARED.
HOWEVER, IT IS ANOTHER SIGN SUGGESTING THAT IN VIEW OF
EXPIRATION OF QUADRIPARTITE COMMITTEE MANDATE (WHICH PRESS
EARLIER ERRONEOUSLY PREDICTED WAS "CERTAIN" TO BE RENEWED)
AND LIKUD VICTORY IN ISRAEL, SYRIA ATTEMPTING TO GLOSS OVER
FAILURE TO DATE TO IMPLEMENT CAIRO ACCORDS BY REFOCUSING ATTENTION
TO FORMATION OF PRO-SYRIAN "NATIONAL SRONT," WHILE REITERATING
ITS WARNINGS AGAINST PARTITION.

MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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